



# Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board

## STATE OF MONTANA

P.O. Box 200902 • Helena, MT 59620-0902 • (406) 841-5090 •  
Website: [www.deq.mt.gov/pet/default.mcp](http://www.deq.mt.gov/pet/default.mcp)

EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 3/16/11  
SB 9

March 15, 2011

Chairman Gordon R. Hendrick  
Natural Resources Committee  
PO Box 200500  
Helena, MT 59620-0500

**Re: Proponent of Senate Bill 9**

Dear Representative:

This letter is to advise you that the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board (Board) fully endorses Senate Bill 9. This bill is the culmination of years of effort to maintain solvency of the Tank Release Compensation Fund. The concept of a petroleum mixing zone was conceived by a workgroup consisting of representatives from the petroleum industry, Department of Environmental Quality, environmental consultants, and Board members.

The petroleum mixing zone approach was presented to the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) at their interim meeting in 2010 and received unanimous support. Following initial review, the Board proposed two minor amendments to the Bill. The Board voted unanimously to recommend these changes and the sponsor has agreed to the changes.

The purposes of the Petroleum Compensation Fund are to:

- protect public health and the environment by providing prompt cleanup of petroleum tank releases;
- provide adequate financial resources through which tank owners and operators can be reimbursed for cleanup work caused by releases; and
- assist tank owners and operators in meeting financial assurance requirements under state and federal laws.

The Board believes that the use of petroleum mixing zones are a sensible approach. If petroleum beneath the surface does not pose a risk to human health or the environment and is not expanding, allowing it to remain in place and save the tax payers the unnecessary corrective action costs, is a benefit to the State of Montana.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger A. Noble".

Roger A. Noble  
Board Chairman